(ii) Promotional Activities
(iii) Woollen Expo

In 2003-04, it is implementing an Integrated Wool Improvement Programme for the overall growth and development of wool sector.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 40 crore has been kept for implementation of various schemes of the Central Wool Development Board during the 10th Five Year Plan period for the development of woollen sector.

Waiving off Excise Duty on Textiles Industry

402. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested to waive off excise duty on textile industry to improve its competency and capabilities to the global standards; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI.BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Following the receipt of representations from various quarters including Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard, a number of steps were taken. To illustrate:

(1) power loom weavers, having an annual turnover of Rs. 35 lakhs were given excise duty exemption on the unprocessed fabrics for the first clearance of Rs. 25 lakhs;

(2) manufacturers of readymade garments having an annual turnover of Rs. 40 lakhs were given excise duty exemption for the first clearance of Rs. 30 lakhs during the year;

(3) substantial procedural simplifications were made for the textile units, which have come into the excise net for the first time;

(4) facility has been provided to an exempted powerloom weaver to pass on excise duty credit even without obtaining excise registration;

(5) field formations of Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs were given strict instructions not to visit any textile units unless authorised by the senior officers for a specific task. Field formations were also instructed to condone procedural lapses by the manufacturers and traders unless it was done with an intent to defraud the exchequer.